

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A set top box, comprising:

a first port coupling a processor to a first communications network and to a database, the first port sending resource information associated with the set top box, the resource information describing at least two disk drives and a capacity of each disk drive;

a second port coupling the processor to a second communications network;

the first port receiving an operating instruction that permits the processor to access an additional portion of the at least two disk drives;

wherein the processor executes the operating instruction to repartition the capacity of a disk drive;

a firewall determining when a source is authorized to communicate with the set top box and determining when a communications protocol is authorized, the firewall thus protecting the set top box from unauthorized access;

the database storing configuration information for the set top box; and

the processor receiving the configuration information remotely over the first communications network, the configuration information including authorized storage for the set top box; and

the processor comparing the resource information capacity of the disk drive to the configuration information authorized storage for the set top box and, when the capacity of the disk drive resource information differs from the authorized storage for the set top box configuration information, detecting unauthorized modifications to the set top box.

2. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the operating instruction causes the processor to limit the capacity of each disk drive.
3. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the operating instruction causes the processor to increase the capacity of each disk drive.

4. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the firewall analyzes the operating instruction.
5. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 4, wherein the firewall is disposed logically between the first port and other components associated with the set top box.
6. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the set top box further comprises a remote resource manager capable of determining resources associated with the set top box ~~the processor receives resource information from a remote resource manager operating in the set top box.~~
7. – 17. (Cancel)
18. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
 - initiating communication between a set top box and a first service provider over a first communications network;
 - initiating communication between the set top box and a ~~second~~-service provider over a second communications network;
 - sending resource information associated with the set top box describing at least two of disk drives and a capacity of each disk drive;
 - receiving an operating instruction that permits a processor to access an additional portion of the at least two disk drives;
 - executing the operating instruction to repartition the capacity of a disk drive;
 - determining when a source is authorized to communicate with the set top box and determining when a communications protocol is authorized, thus protecting the set top box from unauthorized access;
 - storing configuration information for the set top box; and
 - receiving the configuration information remotely over the first communications network, the configuration information including authorized storage for the set top box; and

comparing the capacity of the disk drive to the authorized storage for the set top box and, when the capacity of the disk drive differs from the authorized storage for the set top box, detecting unauthorized modifications to the set top box

~~comparing the resource information to the configuration information and, when the resource information differs from the configuration information, detecting unauthorized modifications to the set top box.~~

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein executing the operating instruction comprises limiting the capacity of each disk drive.
20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein executing the operating instruction comprises increasing the capacity of each disk drive.